



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Little Change in Fire Activity on the Bitterroot”

Hamilton, Montana, September 11, 2006 — After a quiet weekend complete with spotty rains and some lightning, one new fire was located and only two existing fires showed much activity by Monday afternoon.

The Gash Creek Fire was active in the headwaters of the Sweathouse Creek drainage, burning to the north-northwest. The fire, despite a respectable looking column on Monday afternoon, is not growing in size but continues to consume unburned fuels within the existing fire perimeter. Acreage estimates remain at 8410 and 12 people continue to patrol, mopup and secure lines around the fire.

Of the many wildland fire use fires, only the East Langdon Fire was actively burning on Monday. Little growth was reported, but the fire is burning actively enough to generate smoke.

One new fire was discovered on the Sula Ranger District today. The Hart Creek Fire, a leftover from Saturday’s lightning, is just a spot fire ~ less than a 1/10 of an acre ~ and is being controlled by three firefighters.

Fire weather projections indicate a front will move through on Tuesday, generating increased winds by Wednesday. By Thursday, we expect rain, cooler temperatures and the potential for snow in the mountains down to 4,500 feet elevation through the weekend.

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